



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

June 13, 2011

Steve Deming
Program Director
Children's Home Society of South Dakota
1330 Jolly Lane
Rapid City, SD 57703

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN*
Docket No. 09-51, High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As the Program Director for Children's Home Society (CHS) of South Dakota, I witness hundreds of children every year who are struggling with daunting problems, many of whom are victims of severe abuse or neglect. Our organization serves over 2,000 of these children each year, primarily ages 4-13, through residential treatment, education, emergency shelter, forensic interview and exam centers, foster care & adoption services, relative placements, and prevention services. Established in 1893, CHS is the oldest human services agency in South Dakota.

As a non-profit organization, one of our biggest challenges is minimizing our operating expenses in order to use funding to help more children. CHS has been able to greatly reduce the money we spend on telephone conferencing by utilizing free conferencing services. Previously, we had been using one of the large telephone carriers for our conferencing services. We switched to free conferencing when we realized the exorbitant costs this large carrier was charging us for our telephone conferencing.

BLACK HILLS CHILDREN'S HOME
24100 S. Rockerville Road
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-7422
(605) 343-5422 • Fax (605) 343-1411

MESSENGERS CHILDREN'S CENTER
1330 Jolly Lane
Rapid City, South Dakota 57703-4763
(605) 343-2811 • Fax (605) 341-7437

CHILDREN'S INN
409 N. Western Avenue
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104-5607
(605) 338-0116 • Fax (605) 336-9511

SIOUX FALLS CHILDREN'S HOME
PO Box 1749 • 801 N. Sycamore
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101-1749
(605) 334-6004 • Fax (605) 335-2776

Telephone conferencing is a vital tool CHS uses to communicate with foster care and adoption services, emergency shelters and social workers across the state. We are able to do so cost effectively via FreeConferenceCall.com.

Recently, I learned the Federal Communications Commission is contemplating new rules that will do away with these services. This action, if taken, will have a negative effect on our organization. As the Commission moves forward, I respectfully ask you to consider these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Deming".

Steve Deming
Program Director
Children's Home Society (CHS) of South Dakota

CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn